

Governor's Committee on Aging
Friday, November 7, 2008
Location: Devils Lake
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

GCoA Members: Amy Clark-Chair, Ray Siver-Vice Chair, Marty Heller-Secretary, Bruce Davidson, Elaine Keepseagle, Larry Wagner, Delores Rath, Mary Shaw

Guests: Donna Olson-Regional Aging Services Administrator, Shelly Peterson-NDLTCA.

1 Welcome and Introductions

- Mary Shaw, member from Minot. Donna Olson, Regional Aging Services Administrator took over Linda's Wright's position 17 years ago.

2. Approval of work plan, by-laws and protocols

- Bruce made a Motion to approve the GCoA work plan and bylaws for the document dated Aug 1 to July 31 2009, Delores second, Motion carried.

3. Update on 2009 Forums – Amy reviewed the GCoA guideline document.

- Some of the keynote speakers are Susan Raymond; AARP is bringing in keynote speaker in Grand Forks, Lisbon and possibly Ellendale. James Swan from the University of Texas will speak in Bismarck, Rugby & possibly at some of the other forums.
- **Forum Updates:**
 - **Ellendale** – Delores has the 2009 Forum completely planned and presented a handout with the details of the Forum's schedule.
 - **Dickinson** - Marty & Bonnie have finished planning the Dickinson Forum. Bonnie gave Amy the Dickinson Forum schedule before she left for Arizona.
 - **Rugby** – Donna Olson, Mary Shaw and Betty are still planning their Forum. They plan on meeting Dec 9th. They have the meeting locations for the event secured like Bob's Pizza. They have some preliminary speakers signed-up. Dr James Swan is one of the speakers.
 - **Bismarck** – Larry has their Forum completely planned.
 - **Grand Forks** – Ray has the Grand Forks Forum planned.
 - **Lisbon** – Bruce mentioned that their Forum is being planned.
 - **Williston** – Amy is working with Karen Quick on planning the Williston Forum.
 - **New Town** – No update from Frederick on his Forum plan status.
- Amy would like the 2009 Forums to be completed and submit their schedule by January 15th so she can add this information to the main Forum brochure which will be issued in March.

- **Other:**
 - Larry recommended one of the GCoA members be part of the coalition of Elder Abuse.
 - Ray mentioned that Visions for Better Living consisted of 60 booths at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks. Approximately 600 people attended the event. The Senior Center in Grand Forks headed-up this event.
 - **Website** – Amy has setup a website called Wet Paint. The address is GOND.WETPAINT.COM The site takes considerable work to set it up.
 - Looking for a chair for the Graying of ND from the GCoA Committee
 - **Northern Plains Conference** - Donna reported that four RASPAS received \$1000 from the GCoA and they pooled their money and had about 290 people attend at the Double Wood in Fargo. Review about what we have accomplished and how we can improve these things. Darrel Richards a meteorologist. Another conference event is scheduled in Sept. 24, 25, 26th, 2010 at the Ramada Suites. She encouraged us to attend.
 - Amy mentioned the Save the Date Conference is coming up.
 - Amy mentioned the Press release from Governor about the Home and Community Based services.
 - Ray mentioned that six people met with personnel from the Governor's office to request 4.6 million for service providers. They met with Governor's chief of staff Ron Rauschenberg, Tami Wahl and Lori L. Ray followed up with a letter in July requesting \$20,000 for the Silver Haired assembly for their administrator costs, etc. He is still waiting for a response on these two items. Another subject, one of the bills they are promoting is to add onto the Amber Alerts bill not only for children, but it would include any missing person. Last year about 30 elders were reported as missing in North Dakota. Currently, there is no law that details how to locate the person.
 - Amy is serving on a subcommittee for the Olmstead Commission called the Work Force for Direct Care Service Workers. They are working on finding workers for Direct Care.
 - Amy mentioned an organization called Community of Care. It's a coordinated group of volunteers from Arthur, North Dakota that seem to fill a gap in services that are not covered elsewhere. Amy is thinking about having them come to the next meeting to learn more about them. Seems like they would be a good group to have throughout the state.

- **Committee Member Reports**

Amy asked each GCoA member to share their activities representing the GCoA since the last meeting. Primarily, the committee members have been working on planning the upcoming 2009 Forums in many cities throughout the state in April 2009.

5. **1 p.m. Long Term Care Association** – Shelly Peterson, Executive Director
6. **Region III Services** – Donna Olson, Regional Aging Services Program Administrator
 - Donna provided a handout of the Aging Services in Region III and a brochure. They are a focal point for Aging services in this area. In addition they provide Vulnerable Adult Protective Services, National Family Caregiver Support, Ombudsmen, Adult Family Foster Care Licensing, Mental Health Services, and In-Home Services to Elderly Persons. Note: Vulnerable Adult protective services do not require mandatory reporting like Child Vulnerable protective services. Donna prefers it this way.
 - Legislative Issues – Alzheimer, Guardianship and reciprocity. Adult protective service funding is needed.
7. **Report on Elder Justice Conference** – Delores Rath attended the conference and it was a really good conference. The two day conference started out by Linda Wright from Aging Services; Wayne Stenehjem, Attorney General; Jim Fitzsimmons, Executive Director Legal Service and Bill Neumann Executive Director of the State Bar Association.
 - Shelly Peterson - NDLTCA North Dakota Long Term Care Association. The Department of Human Services and the NDLTCA have joined together to promote nursing facilities expanding their mission to serve and care for individuals in need of support and health services wishing to remain home.
 - Nursing homes, Basic Care and Assisted living facilities care for about 14,000 people per year. Their biggest challenging is staffing. Over half the facilities surveyed are using over 50% contract staff. This increases the facilities costs. Shelly reviewed a documented she handed-out called Dream a Little Dream. They desperately need more employees and the QSPs need more hours. The Noonan nursing home has closed and the Steel nursing home is closing due to the lack of staff and many of the residents are relocating back to Bismarck where there are newly constructed facilities. They are concerned about the rural nursing facilities. Our oldest staff member is 95 years.
 - How do we get this idea (Dream Concepts) from the discussion point and start testing some ideas to see if it feasible to provide in home services from a nursing

facility. We should form a group consisting of at least Amy, Shelly and Larry. They could meet with the governor about testing some prototypes of services. Ray mentioned sending a letter to the governor about a Pilot project identifying the problem and testing some solutions through pilot testing. This would not be a duplication of services from other agencies.

- **Motion:** Ray made a Motion to send a formal letter to the Governor and Carol Olson after Shelly drafts the letter which will recommend that the Dept of Human Services fund a grant that will provide planning for pilot projects that will determine the costs of increasing the availability of home based care options for those seniors who would prefer this option. Larry second, Motion carried. Shelly and Larry will draft the letter.

8. **Set GCOA meeting dates for 2009 –**

- January 16th Bismarck
- April 3rd Minot,
- August 7th, Jamestown – Delores will schedule the meeting place.
- November 6th Grand Forks – Ray will schedule the meeting place.

9. **Other –** Ray reviewed the Silver Haired committee Bill priorities: Their number one priority is the check off on the state income tax forms; otherwise the Silver Haired committee will not continue due to lack of funding. Some of their other priorities are: Temporary Guardians, Bill for Defensive Driving requiring for those over 70 yrs.

- Larry requested from Amy the future plan to keep in touch on the upcoming legislative session.

10. **Adjourn** Meeting Started at 10 AM and Ended at 2 PM.